

Guidelines for AMIP II Users

Although LATS was geared for AMIP II data, there are additional guidelines that need to be followed by AMIP II participants. These additional constraints will ensure even greater data processing efficiency and more rapid data distribution.

- **Establish contact with LATS support** (lats@pcmdi.llnl.gov) when you begin using LATS. **First process only two simulation years**, and send it to the AMIP Project Office (or make it ftp available) so that it can be verified that LATS is working properly.
- **Use the most recent version of the AMIP parameter table**. Contact LATS support if you believe any modifications to this table are necessary for your application. Note: **the variable names and units for each field are specified** in the parameter file.
- **Use only the LATS_COARDS or LATS_GRADS_GRIB conventions**. Data produced with the GRADS_GRIB convention can be read with VCS, GrADS and EZGET. netCDF data produced with the COARDS convention can be read with these and many other applications.
- Use **the same base time** (in the lats_basetime call) for all files.
- The **time sequence and sampling frequency should be clearly identified in the file name** (e.g., "...jan79_dec79mm", where the "mm" denotes monthly means).
- Please make sure that the time information specified in the LATS_write call is correct.
- All data must be on the same model grid (i.e., staggered grid data should be interpolated).
- For ALL data associated with intervals of time, such as 6-hour accumulations and averages set the valid time in **lats_write** to the value at the beginning of the interval.
- Grid orientation: monotonically increasing in latitude and longitude, **no wrap-around points** (e.g., 72 points, 0 to 355 degrees).
- Grid orientation: start at Greenwich meridian and south pole.